(b) if so, the details of such plan in respect of State of Andhra Pradesh;

(c) the funds required and the provisions made in the current year; and

(d) whether any target has been laid down and the steps taken to achieve the same?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) Yes, Sir. There is a plan to provide telephone facilities to all the villages in the country.

(b) Out of total 29460 villages, 19753 villages have been provided with telephone facilities as on 31.1.97 Remaining villages are being covered progressively.

(c) Rs. 23.34 crores has been provided for this purpose.

The target for the year 1996-97 has been fixed as 4000 Villages Public Telephones (VPTs). Steps have' been taken to achieve this target.

Setting up of Electronic Exchanges in Bihar

432. SHRI GYAN RANJAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of out-dated telephone exchanges in Bihar;

(b) whether Government propose to replace these exchanges with electronic exchanges;

(c) if so, by when;

(d) the waiting list for telephone connections and the time by which the connections are likely to be given to those subscribers there;

(e) whether there is any proposal under consideration of Government for setting up more electronic exchanges and expansion of telephone services in the State; and

(0 if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) Nil.

(b) and (c) Does not arise in view of (a).

(d) The waiting list in Bihar as on 31.1.97 is 61120. The connections are being given progressively and the waiting list as on 31.1.97 is likely to be cleared by 1998.

(e) and (f) Yes Sir, Annual plans are drown for setting up of more telephone exchanges and expansion of telephone system.

The programme for expansion of small, medium and large exchanges during 96-97 is as furnished below:—

(a) *Small and Medium exchanges* -24,000 lines

(b) *Large Exchanges:*

(i) New Technology -20,000 lines

(ii) E-10B -11,000 lines

(iii) C-DOT MBM -5,500 lines

Re-Opening of Sub-Post Office in Govindpuri

433. SHRI GYAN RANJAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the residents of Govindpuri, Rampuri and other adjoining DDA flats have to face a lot of inconvenience due to absence of Post Office in Govindpuri;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that a Sub-Post Office used to function in Govindpuri for several years but it was closed some years back;

(d) 1f so, the reasons for the closure;

(c) whether Govemment will propose to consider re-opening of the Sub-Post Office keeping in view the large population of the area; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) No Sir, a Sub Post Office in the name of Govindpuri is already functioning in the area which is